

P 241558Z FEB 03
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8426
USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY 2563
INFO AMEMBASSY ASMARA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
IGAD COLLECTIVE

SECDEF WASHDC
USEU BRUSSELS 3137
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 06 ROME 000760

SIPDIS

AIDAC

FROM U.S. MISSION IN ROME

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA FOR AMBASSADOR BRAZEAL AND USAID
DEPUTY DIRECTOR FREEMAN
USAID/W FOR ADMINISTRATOR NATSIOS, D/A SCHIECK, AA/DCHA
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WINTER, AA/AFR NEWMAN AND DAA/AFR BROWN, DCHA/D/FFP LANDIS,
D/OFDA MCCONNELL, AA/GLOBAL PETERSON
STATE FOR P U/S GROSSMAN, U/S LARSON, IO A/S HOLMES, A/S PRM
DEWEY, A/S AFR KANSTEINER, AFR/EA, IO/EDA WINNICK
USDA/FAS FOR U/S PENN AND CHAMBLISS
USDA/FAS NAIROBI FOR KESSLER
USMISSION GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR MOLRY AND USAID/KYLOH
BRUSSELS FOR AFRICA WATCHERS AND USAID/LERNER
NSC FOR JDWORKEN AND AFRICA DIRECTORATE

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR TONY P. HALL IN ETHIOPIA - "IT'S EVEN
WORSE THAN I EXPECTED. ETHIOPIA IS ONCE AGAIN FACED WITH THE
THREAT OF FAMINE."

16. OVERALL, THE FOOD SECURITY SITUATION BOTH IN THE CROPPING
AND PASTORAL AREAS IS POOR. RECOURSE TO MARKETS IS LIMITED
BECAUSE OF LOW OR LACK OF PURCHASING POWER AND CEREAL PRICE
HIKES (UP 20-30 PERCENT IN MANY AREAS COMPARED WITH A YEAR
AGO) - AND FALLING LIVESTOCK PRICES. AND IT IS EVIDENT THAT
THE 2000 AND 2002 DROUGHTS HAD FOR MANY A WITHERING IMPACT
ON HOUSEHOLD ASSETS.

WHAT THE TEAM SAW

17. AMBASSADOR HALL AND TIM LAVELLE TRAVELED TO THE EAST
SHEWA (NAZARETH) ZONE AND ARSI, OROMIYA REGION
(TRADITIONALLY A FOOD SURPLUS AREA) AND REVIEWED WFP-
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SUPPORTED FOOD-FOR-ASSETS CREATION AND PROTECTION. WFP,
WORKING THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, IS SUCCESSFULLY
PROMOTING ACTIVITIES AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL FOCUSED ON
BUILDING SKILLS AND INFRASTRUCTURE (PONDS, GULLY CONTROL,
REFORESTATION, ETC) THROUGH PUBLIC WORKS SUPPORTED BY FOOD
ASSISTANCE. DROUGHT-RELATED GENERAL DISTRIBUTIONS WERE ALSO
OBSERVED. NOTE: TOO LITTLE INVESTMENT HAS BEEN MADE IN
IRRIGATION OR OTHER SYSTEMS TO MANAGE WATER SUPPLY - ONLY
ABOUT 5 PERCENT OF ETHIOPIA'S POTENTIALLY IRRIGABLE LAND IS
PRESENTLY IRRIGATED. END NOTE.

18. THE ENTIRE TEAM VISITED THE SOUTHERN, NATIONS AND
NATIONALITIES, PEOPLES REGION (SNNPR) WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF
ETHIOPIA'S (GFDRE) COMMISSIONER FOR DISASTER PREVENTION AND
PREPAREDNESS (DPPC) AND REVIEWED ACTIVITIES OF WORLD VISION,
THE IRISH-NGO PROJECT CONCERN AND AN ETHIOPIAN NON-
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION, PROJECT MERCY. THESE NGOS ARE
PERFORMING IN A TRULY EXEMPLARY MANNER IN IDENTIFYING GAPS
AND PROVIDING SUPPORT WHERE GOVERNMENT SERVICES ARE WEAK OR
UNADAPTED TO LOCAL NEEDS. THEY ARE POWERFUL INSTRUMENTS IN
PROMOTING PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT AND GIVING A
VOICE TO THE POOR. AND WHILE THEY ARE COMMITTED TO WORKING
WITH AND STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, IT
WAS GRATIFYING TO SEE THAT THE GFDRE AT DIFFERENT LEVELS IS
INCREASINGLY RECOGNIZING NGOS AS AN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT
FORCE AND PARTNER. NOTE: WORLD VISION'S OWN 2003 PLANNED
CONTRIBUTION (RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT) TO ETHIOPIA IS A TRULY
IMPRESSIVE U.S. 17 MILLION DOLLARS. END NOTE.

19. THE "INVESTMENTS" OF WORLD VISION AND LIKE-MINDED NGOS
AND DONORS IN THE ENHANCEMENT OF PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOODS AND
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THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE CAN, IF PLANNED
WELL, GO HAND-IN-HAND WITH THE DELIVERY OF LIFE-SAVING FOOD
AID. THE PROJECTS THAT WE SAW AMPLY DEMONSTRATED THAT IT IS
POSSIBLE TO BUILD A PLATFORM FROM WHICH PEOPLE CAN, WITH
COMPLEMENTARY DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS, GRADUATE OUT OF
EMERGENCY RELIEF.

PROJECT MERCY - "EACH FACE BEAMS WITH HOPE"

110. PROJECT MERCY, STARTED IN 1977 BY AN ETHIOPIAN REFUGEE
COUPLE (MARTA GABRE-TSADICK AND DEMME TEKLE-WOLD) IS A FORT
WAYNE, INDIANA REGISTERED NGO WHICH MINISTERS TO THE
PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF AFRICAN REFUGEES. IN YETEBON
(GURAGUE ZONE, SNNPR), PROJECT MERCY IS FOCUSED ON HEALTH,
AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING OF THE LOCAL
POPULATION. TO DATE, PROJECT MERCY'S ACTIVITIES IN YETEBON
(1993-PRESENT) HAVE BEEN FUNDED (U.S. DOLLARS 4.43 MILLION)
EXCLUSIVELY BY PRIVATE U.S. DONATIONS. IMPELLED BY THE

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ACTION SSO-00

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AID-00	ANHR-00	E-00	UTED-00	TEDE-00
	IO-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PM-00	P-00	SS-00	TEST-00
	PMB-00	PRM-00	SAS-00	/002W			

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ACTION SSO-00

INFO LOG-00 AF-00 AID-00 ANHR-00 E-00 UTED-00 TEDE-00
IO-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 PM-00 P-00 SS-00 TEST-00
PMB-00 PRM-00 SAS-00 /002W
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A PERSONAL NOTE FROM AMBASSADOR HALL

124. MY HEARTFELT GRATITUDE AND THANKS TO AMBASSADOR BRAZEAL
AND STAFF FOR BRINGING TO FRUITION (ON FEBRUARY 20) A
MONUMENT ON EMBASSY GROUNDS HONORING U.S. CONGRESSMAN MICKEY
LELAND AND USAID/STATE DEPARTMENT STAFF, BOTH AMERICAN AND
ETHIOPIAN - WHO TRAGICALLY DIED ON A HUMANITARIAN MISSION TO
A REMOTE AREA OF WESTERN ETHIOPIA ON AUGUST 7, 1989. BOTH
MICKEY AND I SERVED TOGETHER FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS ON THE
HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUNGER WHERE HE WORKED TIRELESSLY
TO MAKE OTHER LIVES BETTER. AND WHILE MICKEY TRAVELED ALL
OVER THE WORLD TO ASSIST THE HUNGRY POOR, HE HAD A SPECIAL
LOVE FOR ETHIOPIA. HE REMAINS FOR ME (AND FOR ALL WHO KNEW
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HIM) A LIVING EXAMPLE OF THE DEEP COMPASSION AND GENEROSITY
OF AMERICA.

125. AS AA/DCHA WINTER WENT ON DIRECTLY TO SUDAN, HE DID NOT
HAVE A CHANCE TO CLEAR THIS CABLE. HALL

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